

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-31, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter disclosed therein.

Please add the following new claims 32-37:

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) A method of improving decreased bone mass in a human comprising: providing a pharmaceutical preparation containing as an active ingredient OCIF protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:6 and administering the preparation containing OCIF protein so as to effect the improvement in decreased bone mass.

33. (New) A method of using OCIF protein for improvement of decreased bone mass in a human comprising: providing a pharmaceutical preparation for introducing OCIF protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:6 into said human, and administering said preparation to said human so as to effect said improvement of said decreased bone mass.

34. (New) A method of increasing levels of OCIF protein in a human comprising administering to said human said OCIF protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:6, wherein such administration results in an increase in the level of OCIF protein and wherein the increase in OCIF protein in the human results in increased bone density.

35. (New) A method of improving decreased bone mass in a human comprising: providing a pharmaceutical preparation containing as an active ingredient OCIF protein and administering the preparation containing OCIF protein so as to effect the improvement in decreased bone mass.

36. (New) A method of using OCIF protein for improvement of decreased bone mass in a human comprising: providing a pharmaceutical preparation for introducing OCIF protein into said human, and administering said preparation to said human so as to effect said improvement of said decreased bone mass.

37. (New) A method of increasing levels of OCIF protein in a human comprising administering to said human said OCIF protein, wherein such administration results in an increase in the level of OCIF protein and wherein the increase in OCIF protein in the human results in increased bone density.